AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A mounting structure for a damper, said damper having an upper portion and a lower portion, said upper portion extending through a closed section of a vehicle body frame and said lower portion being connected to a suspension, said mounting structure comprising the vehicle body frame closed section and a mounting portion of the damper, ~~damper mounting structure, wherein an upper portion of a damper, which is connected at its lower end to a suspension, is accommodated within a vehicle body frame having a closed section, and a~~ wherein the damper mounting portion ~~for the damper~~ is fixed to a lower surface of the vehicle body frame closed section.

2. (Currently Amended) A mounting structure for a damper, said damper having an upper portion and a lower portion, said upper portion being fixed to a vehicle body while said lower portion being connected ~~damper mounting structure, wherein an upper portion of a damper, which is connected at its lower end~~ to a suspension, ~~is fixed to a vehicle body,~~ wherein said mounting structure includes the vehicle body and a damper mounting portion, said damper mounting portion being secured to the body so as to mount the damper to the body, wherein the damper

mounting portion includes a temporary fixing means ~~is provided at a position displaced from an upper end of the upper portion of the damper~~ that cooperates with the vehicle body to temporarily fix the damper to the body, and wherein, after the damper has been temporarily fixed to the vehicle body with the ~~temporarily~~ temporary fixing means, ~~,~~ the damper mounting portion and said vehicle body further cooperate to receive fasteners to fix the damper to the body, and wherein said damper mounting portion and vehicle body are configured such that the fasteners are installed in said mounting portion and said body from below said body ~~is fixed to the vehicle body from below~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~damper mounting~~mounting structure according to claim 2, wherein the mounting portion includes ~~temporary fixing means is~~ a hook-shaped locking projection, and the damper is temporarily fixed to the vehicle body by inserting the locking projection into a locking bore formed in the vehicle body and rotating the damper to bring the locking projection into engagement with a locking surface of the vehicle body, said locking surface being disposed adjacent the locking bore.

4. (Original) A method for temporarily securing a damper to a vehicle, said damper comprising a mounting portion comprising at least one locking projection, said vehicle comprising a vehicle body frame having a lower member, said lower member having an upper surface, a lower surface, and defining an opening through which said damper extends, said lower member further defining at least one locking bore, said method comprising the steps of:

inserting said damper into said opening from below;

aligning said locking projection with said locking bore;

inserting said locking projection through said locking bore; and,

rotating said damper such that said locking projection moves relative to said locking bore and is disposed adjacent said lower member upper surface and out of alignment with said locking bore.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for mounting a damper to a vehicle, said damper comprising a mounting portion having a locking projection and a bolt bore, said vehicle comprising a vehicle body frame comprising a plurality of members cooperating to provide a closed section, said plurality of members including a lower member, said lower member having an upper surface, a lower surface, and defining an opening through which said damper extends, said lower member further defining a locking bore and a bolt bore, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) inserting said damper into said opening from below;

(b) aligning said locking projection with said locking bore;

(c) inserting said locking projection through said locking bore; and,

(d) rotating said damper such that said locking projection moves relative to said locking bore and is disposed adjacent said lower member upper surface and out of alignment with said locking bore while simultaneously moving said mounting portion bolt bore into alignment with said lower member bolt bore; and,

(e) inserting a bolt through said aligned bolt bores to secure the damper to the vehicle body frame.

6. (Currently Amended) A damper in combination with a vehicle body frame, said combination comprising:

said damper having a lower portion, ~~and~~ an upper portion, and a mounting portion disposed between said upper and lower portions, said lower portion being adapted to be secured to a suspension~~, said upper portion including a mounting portion~~;

said vehicle body frame comprising a plurality of members that are secured to one another so as to define a substantially closed section, said plurality of members including a lower member;

wherein said damper upper portion extends through an opening in said lower member so as to be ~~being~~ received within said closed section of said vehicle body frame while ~~and~~ said mounting portion is fixed to said lower member adjacent said lower member opening.

7. (Currently Amended) The combination according to claim 6, wherein said lower member further defines ~~an opening and~~ a locking bore, said ~~damper extending through said opening and said~~ locking bore cooperating with said damper mounting portion to permit temporary attachment of said damper to said vehicle body frame from below.

8. (Currently Amended) The combination according to claim 7, wherein said damper mounting portion includes a locking projection, said locking projection being adapted to extend through said lower member locking bore and to engage an upper surface of said lower member.

9. (Original) The combination according to claim 8, wherein said locking projection includes a base portion secured to and extending away from an upper surface of said damper mounting portion, and a body portion spaced a distance from the upper surface of said mounting portion so as to permit said lower member to be received beneath said body portion.

10. (Original) The combination according to claim 7, wherein said lower member further defines a bolt bore, and wherein said damper mounting portion defines a bolt bore and includes a locking projection, said locking projection being adapted to extend through said lower member locking bore, and said mounting portion bolt bore cooperating with said lower member bolt bore to receive a bolt to secure said damper to said vehicle frame.

11. (Original) The combination according to claim 10, wherein said locking projection includes a base portion secured to and extending away from an upper surface of said damper mounting portion, and a body portion spaced a distance from the upper surface of said mounting portion so as to permit said lower member to be received beneath said body portion.

12. (Original) The combination according to claim 6, wherein the mounting portion is an upper spring seat of the damper.

13. (New) The combination according to claim 1, wherein the mounting

portion is an upper spring seat of the damper.

14. (New) The combination according to claim 2, wherein the mounting portion is an upper spring seat of the damper.

15. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein steps (a) – (e) are performed sequentially.